

# HEAVEN

BY  
STJEPAN  
ŠEJIĆ

BOOK  
THREE

DC  
BLACK  
LABEL



HARLEY  
QUINN

**BOOK THREE**

**STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ**  
STORY AND ART

**GABRIELA DOWNIE**  
LETTERS

**STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ**  
COVER AND VARIANT COVER

**HARLEY QUINN** CREATED BY  
**PAUL DINI** AND **BRUCE TIMM**



FIVE DAYS  
AFTER...THE HUG.

HOW THE *HELL* DID  
I GET *HERE*?!

I MEAN, IT WAS THREE IN THE  
MORNING, AND THERE I WAS  
WIDE AWAKE ON MY BED,  
MENTALLY BACKTRACKING MY  
WAY THROUGH LIFE...

...CONNECTING THE DOTS  
THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE  
DREAM I'D JUST HAD.

THEY SAY A LAWYER WHO DEFENDS  
THEMSELF HAS A *FOOL* FOR A CLIENT.  
I WONDER IF THE SAME IS TRUE FOR  
PSYCHIATRISTS?

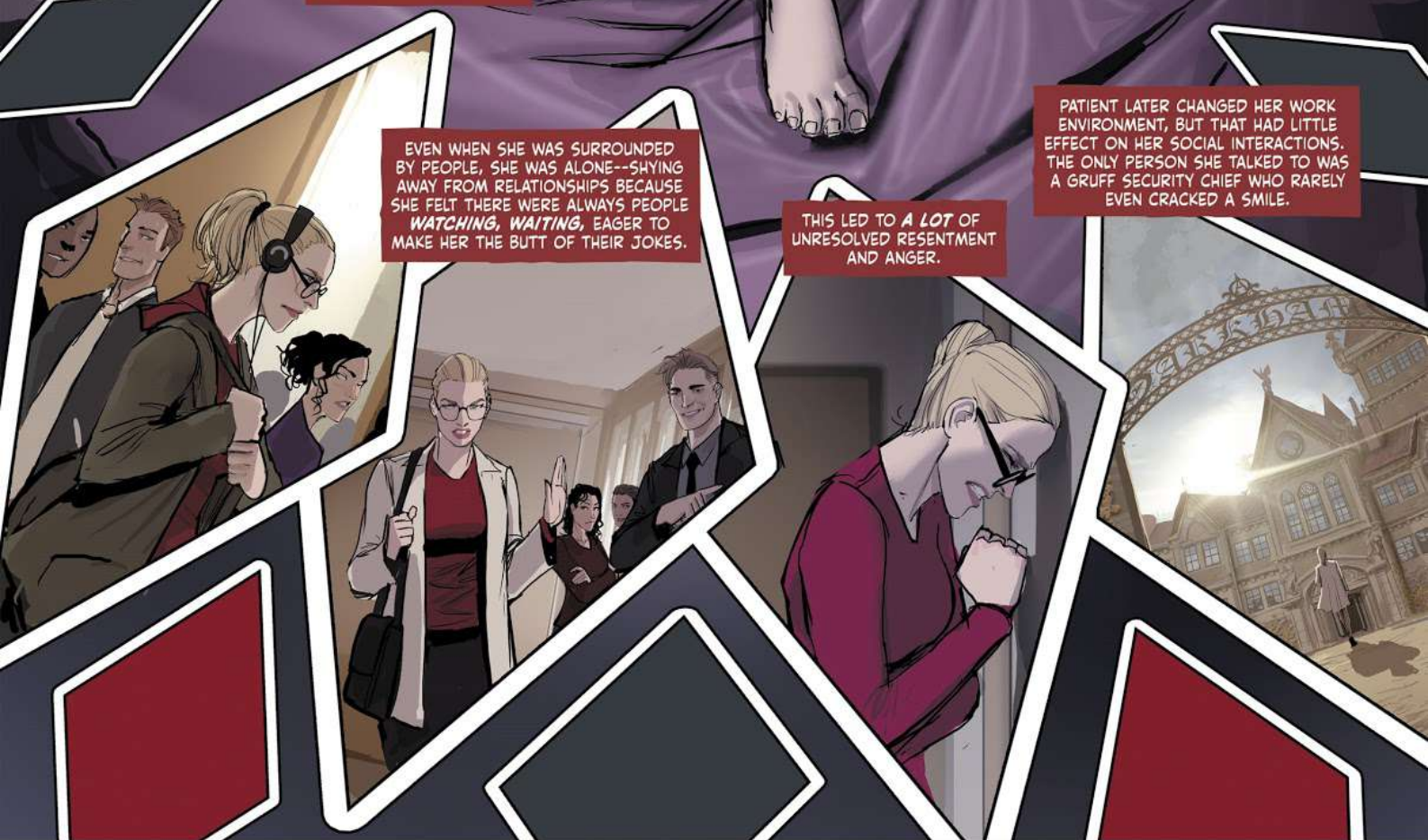
ANYHOW...PATIENT'S NAME:  
*HARLEEN QUINZEL*.

PATIENT'S BAD COLLEGE  
EXPERIENCE LED TO YEARS  
OF EMOTIONAL ISOLATION.

EVEN WHEN SHE WAS SURROUNDED  
BY PEOPLE, SHE WAS ALONE--SHYING  
AWAY FROM RELATIONSHIPS BECAUSE  
SHE FELT THERE WERE ALWAYS PEOPLE  
*WATCHING, WAITING*, EAGER TO  
MAKE HER THE BUTT OF THEIR JOKES.

THIS LED TO A LOT OF  
UNRESOLVED RESENTMENT  
AND ANGER.

PATIENT LATER CHANGED HER WORK  
ENVIRONMENT, BUT THAT HAD LITTLE  
EFFECT ON HER SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.  
THE ONLY PERSON SHE TALKED TO WAS  
A GRUFF SECURITY CHIEF WHO RARELY  
EVEN CRACKED A SMILE.







IT MADE A SAD KIND OF SENSE  
THAT IN THE END, I GRAVITATED TO  
THE ONE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY  
SEEMED TO *NEED* ME...

...THE ONE PERSON WHO  
MAYBE EVEN LIKED ME...

THE PERSON WHO TWICE  
HELD MY *LIFE* IN HIS HANDS.

THE FIRST TIME HE GAVE  
ME NIGHTMARES...

THE SECOND  
TIME...

WELL, THE SECOND TIME HE  
GAVE ME SOME VERY DIFFERENT  
KINDS OF DREAMS...







OH YES...*VERY* DIFFERENT.

DOCTOR, DOCTOR, DOCTOR...

STILL IN YOUR *LAB COAT*. UNIFORMS...THEY DO BRING A CERTAIN SENSE OF *CONTROL* WITH THEM, DON'T THEY?



THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE PREVAILING OPINION AMONG THE BIRDS, THE CATS, AND THE BATS...



HOWEVER, I DO ASSURE YOU THIS SENSE OF CONTROL IS JUST AN *ILLUSION!*

OR MAYBE...A *MAD PERSON'S* DELUSION?

I'M... I'M *NOT* MAD!

OH, BUT YOU *MUST* BE!



OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!

OKAY, CARDS ON THE TABLE: I SPENT FIVE HOURS SORTING THROUGH *THE MAD HATTER'S* PATIENT HISTORY, SO THERE WAS SOME OF *THAT* IN MY DREAM AS WELL.



BUT THE REST OF IT WAS ALL *HIM*...

HEH...WELL, I GUESS THAT DOES MAKE SENSE...



...MR. JAY.





I DESPERATELY WISHED  
I COULD HAVE CALLED  
IT A NIGHTMARE...

...BECAUSE THE TRUTH  
WAS TOO DISTURBING.



HE GOT UNDER  
MY SKIN.

I DIDN'T JUST SNAP  
OUT OF THAT DREAM  
FEELING SWEATY.

I WOKE UP  
WET...



WHAT IS  
WRONG WITH  
ME?!





WHAT IS  
WRONG WITH  
YOU?!



COVERING THE  
CAMERA WHILE ALONE  
IN A ROOM WITH  
*THE JOKER*?

I *HAD* TO.  
HE FELT WATCHED.  
IT'S...HE WAS BACKING OUT  
AFTER I'D GOTTEN HIM TO  
OPEN UP TO ME.



OH FOR  
*CRYING OUT LOUD*,  
DR. QUINZEL, JOKER HAS SO  
FAR "OPENED UP" TO SIX DIFFERENT  
PSYCHIATRISTS--AND BY *OPENED* I  
MEAN OPENED THE SEWAGE  
DRAIN AND SPILLED HIS  
*BULLSHIT*!



*NO!* I SAW  
THOSE PREVIOUS  
INTERVIEWS. THIS IS  
*DIFFERENT*!



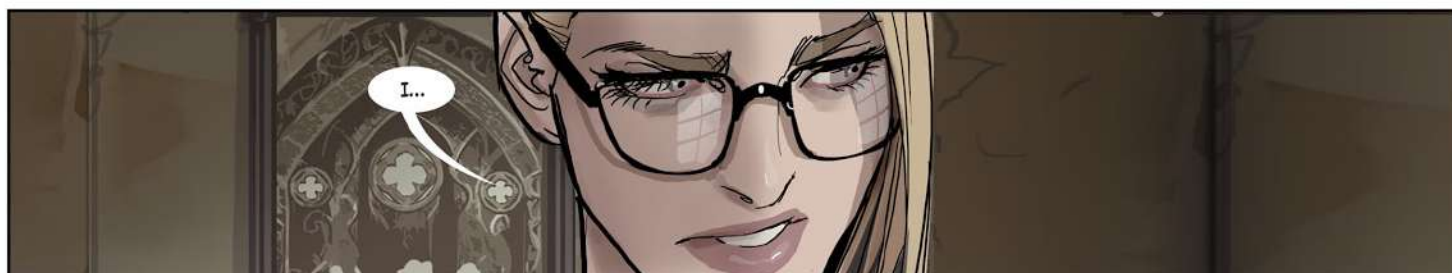
WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK *YOU'RE* SO SPECIAL  
THAT HE WOULD OPEN UP TO YOU WHEN  
FAR MORE *SEASONED* PSYCHIATRISTS  
HAVE *FAILED* OVER AND OVER  
AGAIN?



...



WELL?



I...





DR. QUINZEL,  
YOU ARE A PROMISING  
PSYCHIATRIST. I UNDERSTAND YOUR  
**EAGERNESS**, BUT I MUST INSIST  
THAT YOU **EXERCISE EXTREME**  
CAUTION WITH THESE...  
PEOPLE.

DR. STRANGE,  
HE IS **COMPLETELY**  
RESTRAINED. PLEASE. LET  
ME CONTINUE THIS.  
CAMERAS **STAY**  
OFF.



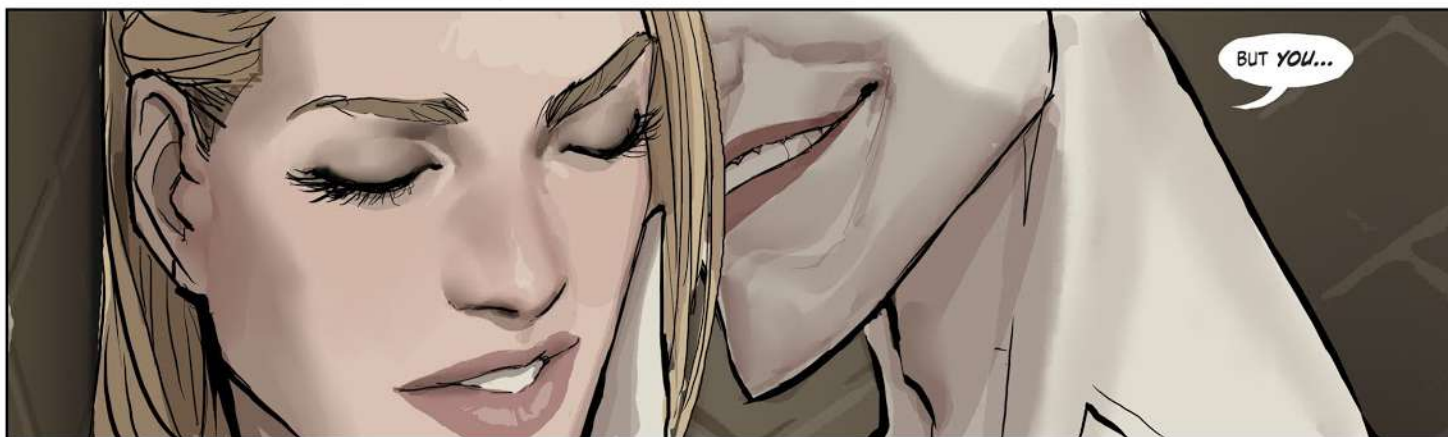
**SIGH**  
FINE. TELL  
JENNIFER TO HAVE YOU  
SIGN A **WAIVER**. I'M NOT  
HAVING YOU SUE ARKHAM  
ASYLUM JUST BECAUSE  
YOU LIKE LIVING  
DANGEROUSLY.



I DON'T LIKE LIVING  
DANGEROUSLY!

AND I HONESTLY  
MEANT THAT.









NOBODY'S  
DONE THAT FOR ME...  
NOT FOR A LONG,  
LONG TIME,  
HARLEY.



HAH! I KNEW  
THAT *SMILE* WOULD  
BE *AMAZING*! I'M SO  
GLAD I DIDN'T PULL  
THE TRIGGER THAT  
NIGHT!



OH? I  
THOUGHT YOU  
WERE OUT OF  
BULLETS?

FOR YOU?  
NEVER!



WAS THAT  
*FLIRTING...* OR A  
*THREAT*?

YES.



I *KNOW* SHE  
SIGNED IT BUT I'M  
*STILL* GONNA CHECK  
ON HER.



*CRAP!*













WE'RE DONE HERE.



DOC!

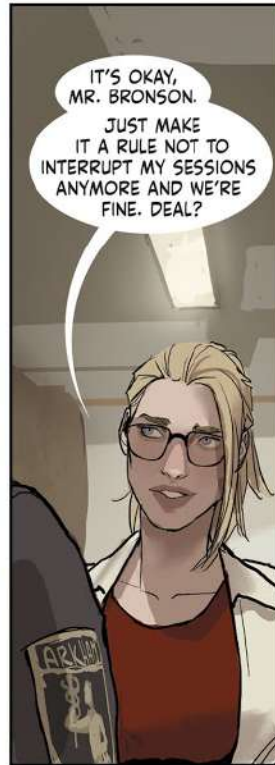
YES?

UH...I...I'M SORRY ABOUT THE WHOLE THING IN THERE.



IT'S JUST... SOME OF US LOST FRIENDS DURING HIS LAST BREAKOUT AND...YOU KNOW WHAT?

DOESN'T MATTER, POINT IS IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



IT'S OKAY, MR. BRONSON.

JUST MAKE IT A RULE NOT TO INTERRUPT MY SESSIONS ANYMORE AND WE'RE FINE. DEAL?



DEAL! HEY, DOC... YOU REALLY DO THINK YOU CAN HELP HIM, HUH?

I DON'T THINK IT!



I KNOW IT.



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SPECIAL THAT HE WOULD OPEN UP TO YOU WHEN FAR MORE SEASONED PSYCHIATRISTS HAVE FAILED OVER AND OVER AGAIN?



IT'S MY SMILE, DR. STRANGE. IT MAKES HIS HEART BEAT FASTER.

AND THAT'S HOW I KNOW I CAN HELP HIM. IN FACT, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.

I'M THE JOKER'S DOCTOR.



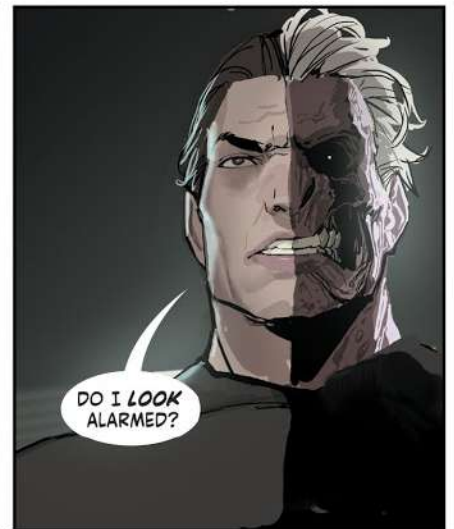




KNOCK KNOCK

MR. DENT!  
G.C.P.D.!

WE HAVE  
VISITORS!







YOU'RE WITH  
**THE EXECUTIONERS.**  
YOU MURDERED **MARONI**  
AFTER HE....**ATTACKED**  
ME.

LIKE I SAID,  
WE ALL SAW YOUR  
SPEECH THAT DAY,  
MR. DENT.  
INSPIRING **AND**  
APPRECIATED.

TALKING  
AMONGST OURSELVES,  
WE REALIZED WE NEED TO  
TAKE THE EXECUTIONERS  
TO THE NEXT  
LEVEL.

AND  
WHO BETTER TO  
LEAD US THAN  
YOU?

I'M AN  
OFFICER OF THE  
COURT.

THAT'S RIGHT,  
AND YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY  
LED THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE  
FALCONE FAMILY IN YOUR SECOND  
YEAR AS DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY.

I WAS  
THERE, SIR.

THE WAY WE  
SEE IT, ALL YOU HAVE TO  
DO IS **PROSECUTE.** POINT  
US AT THE GUILTY PARTIES AND  
WE'LL DO THE REST.

AFTER  
ALL, THAT'S WHAT  
THE EXECUTIONERS  
ARE FOR.



HE SEEMS  
LIKE A SMART MAN.  
A GOOD MAN. WHY  
DON'T YOU TELL  
HIM?



COME ON,  
HARVEY! YOU THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT FOR YEARS...EVEN  
**BEFORE MARONI**, YOU **KNEW**  
THE WAY TO **WAKE UP**  
THIS CITY!



BUT YOU  
WERE ALL ALONE, THEN. AND  
NOW WE'RE TOGETHER IN THIS,  
AND **THEY** CAN BE  
AS WELL.

WE  
CAN DO IT IF  
WE SHOW THEM  
THE WAY.





WHAT'S WITH THE COIN?



EVER SINCE MY COMA I'VE BEEN HAVING SOME...DIFFICULTIES DISTINGUISHING FANTASY FROM REALITY.



I FIND THIS HELPS MY DECISION-MAKING.  
WE'RE IN.



"WE"?

I...I'M IN.



AND IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE THIS CITY WAKE UP, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BIG...



SOMETHING THAT WILL FORCE THEIR HAND...MAKE THEM AFRAID...MAKE THEM ACT!



LIKE WHAT?



GOOTHAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN ITS POLITICAL COWARDICE AROUND IMPLEMENTING THE DEATH PENALTY.

THE ONE TRUE SOLUTION TO OUR CITY'S UNIQUE BRAND OF REPEAT OFFENDERS.

SO I SAY WE LET LOOSE THE WOLVES!

ALL OF THEM! WE STAGE THE GREATEST PRISON BREAKOUT EVER, SETTING ALL THIS CITY'S MONSTERS BACK UPON IT.

A NIGHT OF BLOOD TO FORCE THE POLITICIANS TO ACT!

WE'LL HAVE ONE CHANCE, THOUGH...ONE CHOICE.



SO...HEADS, IT'S BLACKGATE PENITENTIARY.



TAILS...



# ARKHAM ASYLUM.







INTENSE, HUH?

IT WAS A SLOW PROCESS, BUT THERE WAS HOPE. LITTLE BY LITTLE HE OPENED UP TO ME. BIT BY BIT, I LEARNED MORE ABOUT HIM.

ALSO THAT NIGHT I MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE FANTASIZED ABOUT MY NAILS IN HIM.



AHEM. ANYWAYS, IT WAS GOING GREAT. MR. BRONSON WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD AND MY SESSIONS WITH MR. JAY REMAINED UNINTERRUPTED.



AND YOU KNOW WHAT? SOON I REALIZED THAT ARKHAM ITSELF HAD GROWN ON ME. THE BUSY DAYS AND THE LONG NIGHT SHIFTS.



I'D OFTEN MAKE USE OF THE TIME TO VISIT MR. JAY AND INDULGE IN PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION.

GO FISH.



AS FOR MY OTHER PATIENTS, RESULTS WERE A MIXED BAG. SOME REMAINED FRUSTRATINGLY UNCHANGED...

YOU ANNOY ME!



...WHILE OTHERS SHOWED PROMISE.

IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD ENJOY SOME *SUNLIGHT* GIVEN YOUR SPECIAL CONDITION.

I... UH... THANK YOU.



IT WAS BABY STEPS, SURE. NEVERTHELESS, I WAS MAKING PROGRESS.

LEARNING NEW THINGS.



DISCARDING OLD MISCONCEPTIONS...



WEEKS TURNED TO MONTHS. EVEN THOUGH MY SCHEDULE SAID *SESSIONS*, WHAT WE SHARED WERE *DATES*...MINUS THE WINING AND DINING, AND WITH EXCESSIVE SECURITY RESTRAINTS THROWN INTO THE MIX.

AND YES, I'M *AWARE* THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME DEVELOPING *FETISH*...



SO THE JACKET STAYS ON TODAY?

YEAH, I WANT TO GET SOME WORK DONE AND YOU GET HANDSY.

POT? KETTLE?

==HEM==



BUT THAT *WASN'T* IT. TRUTH WAS I HAD FALLEN *IN LOVE*. IT WAS A THOUGHT THAT WOULD'VE TERRIFIED ME ONCE, BUT NOW MADE ME START EVERY DAY WITH A SMILE.

I EVEN RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE FINANCIAL BOARD WAS ALLOCATING MORE WAYNE GRANT MONEY TO MY RESEARCH, MEANING ASSISTANTS AND EQUIPMENT! IT WAS ALL WITHIN MY REACH.

EVERYTHING WAS COMING UP HARLEY!



WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING.

I DON'T KNOW...THE GUY IS JUST *CREEPY*.



I GUESS IT'S GOOD THAT HE'S HERE TO INTERROGATE THE JOKER AND NOT *YOU*.

INTERROGATE? WAIT, PRIYA, WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



THE BATMAN.

HE'S *HERE?* WITH JAY?

UH, YEAH?

WHO AUTHORIZED *THIS?*!

UM... NOBODY? HE'S *BATMAN!*

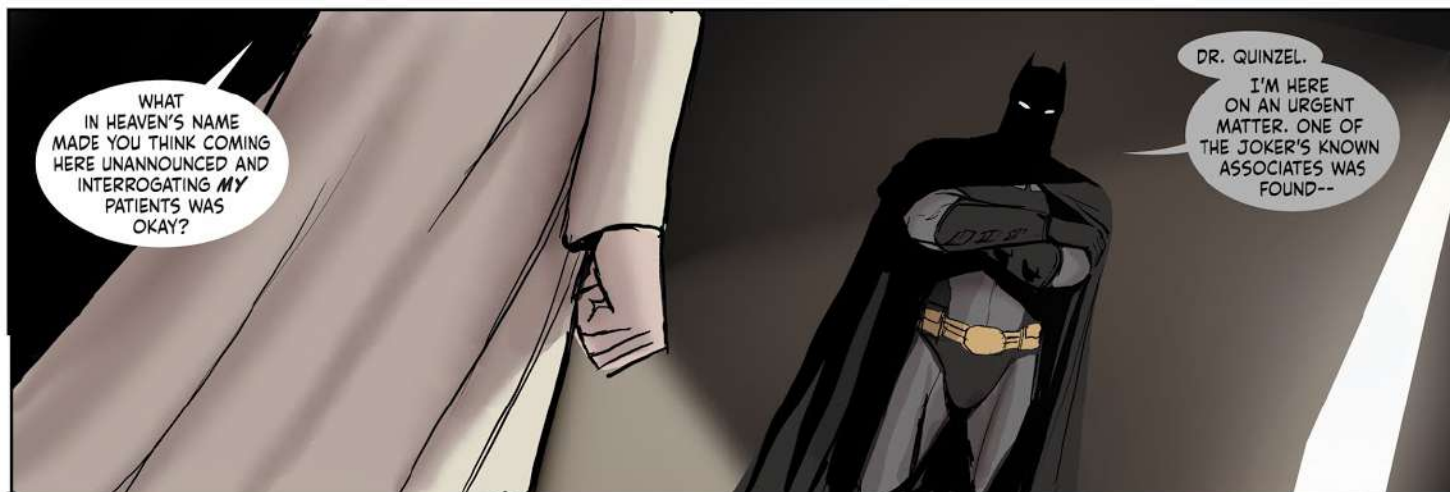


OH FOR *FUCK'S* SAKE!



GET AWAY FROM MY *PATIENT!*





WHAT  
IN HEAVEN'S NAME  
MADE YOU THINK COMING  
HERE UNANNOUNCED AND  
INTERROGATING *MY*  
PATIENTS WAS  
OKAY?

DR. QUINZEL.  
I'M HERE  
ON AN URGENT  
MATTER. ONE OF  
THE JOKER'S KNOWN  
ASSOCIATES WAS  
FOUND--



**I DON'T CARE!**

I AM *NOT*  
COMMISSIONER GORDON  
AND *YOU* ARE NOT  
WELCOME TO DO AS YOU  
PLEASE WITH MY  
PATIENTS!

I DIDN'T  
WORK FIVE MONTHS  
WITH THE JOKER FOR  
YOU TO *RUIN IT*  
NOW!



VERY WELL.  
I'LL LEAVE HIM IN  
YOUR HANDS.  
HOWEVER...



BE CAREFUL  
WITH HIM, DR. QUINZEL.  
IF YOU STARE INTO  
THE ABYSS LONG  
ENOUGH--

YOU  
MAY FIND A  
*BROKEN MAN*  
TRYING TO *CLIMB*  
*OUT!*



A DIFFICULT  
TASK WHEN YOU  
KEEP *BREAKING*  
HIS BONES,  
BATMAN!



RIGHT THERE, I REALIZED  
JUST HOW MUCH THIS FELT  
LIKE MY DREAM WITH  
THE BAT BEAST.



A SHIVER RAN  
THROUGH MY BODY.



DAMN...THAT  
WAS...

**AMAZING!**

I WAS  
GONNA SAY  
*SCARY.*



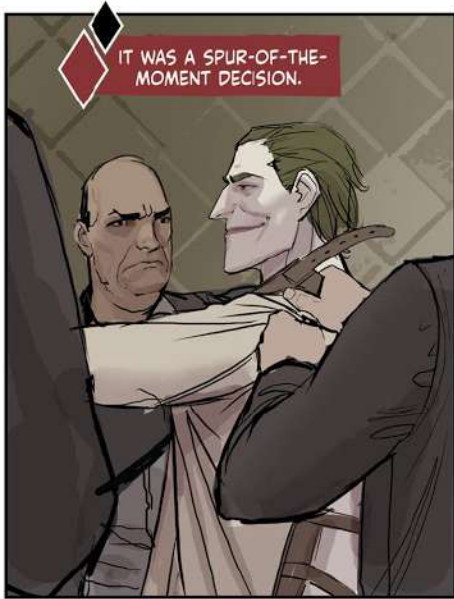
HEY, DOC.  
I THINK  
I'M READY  
FOR SOME  
THERAPY.

YEAH...



ME TOO.





IT WAS A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT DECISION.



AND I'D BEEN ON THE SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT *PILL* FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.



BECAUSE *HE* WAS THE SUBJECT OF MOST OF MY SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT WAKING THOUGHTS...



NOTHING PREMEDITATED ABOUT IT.



ON A *WHIM*, I ARRANGED A DATE.



ON A WHIM, I FOUND MYSELF CARRYING MAKEUP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COLLEGE.



AND MY OH MY, WHO KNEW WHERE MY NEXT WHIM MIGHT TAKE ME...

OH MY GOD, HARLEY! WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?





THIS IS SO  
**ME**... FIRST THE  
COLLEGE THING...  
NOW... **HIM**...

I SHOULD KNOW  
BETTER!  
**HE**  
**HELD ME AT**  
**GUNPOINT!**

AND  
YET... HERE I AM,  
READY TO RISK IT  
ALL--MY LIFE, MY  
CAREER...

GETTING  
DOLLED UP BECAUSE  
I WANT TO SHOW  
HIM THAT HE'S  
NEEDED...



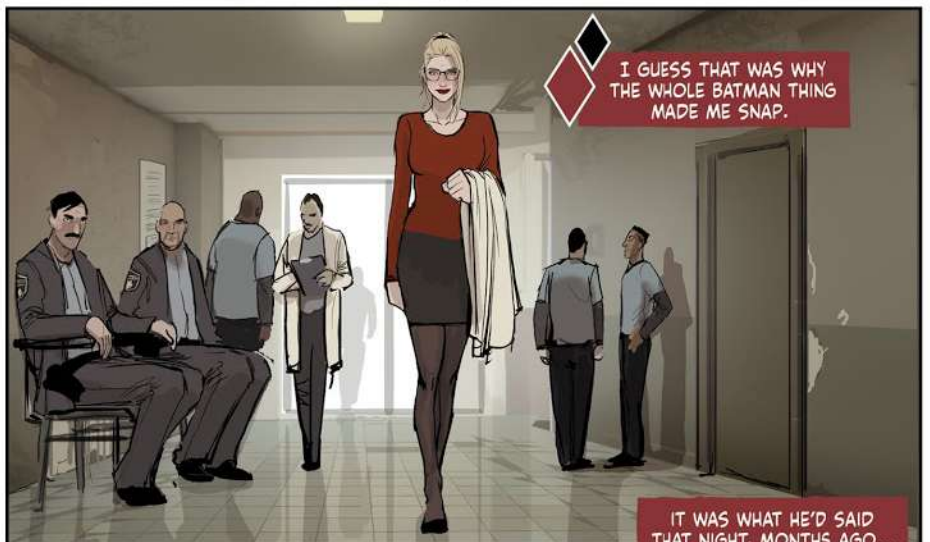
BECAUSE  
I WANT TO **SAVE**  
HIM.



I CAN  
HELP HIM... ISN'T  
THAT MY  
JOB?  
AT THE  
END OF THE DAY,  
I **AM** THE ONLY ONE  
WHO CAN HELP  
HIM...



I **WILL**  
HELP HIM!



I GUESS THAT WAS WHY  
THE WHOLE BATMAN THING  
MADE ME SNAP.

IT WAS WHAT HE'D SAID  
THAT NIGHT, MONTHS AGO...





SO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS **HOPE** FOR THEM?

I HOPE THERE IS.

EVEN **THE JOKER**?

DO I THINK HE CAN BE HELPED?  
MANY HAVE TRIED.

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT FOR A SECOND. HE DIDN'T THINK JAY COULD BE HELPED.

AND IT HAD **INFURIATED** ME.



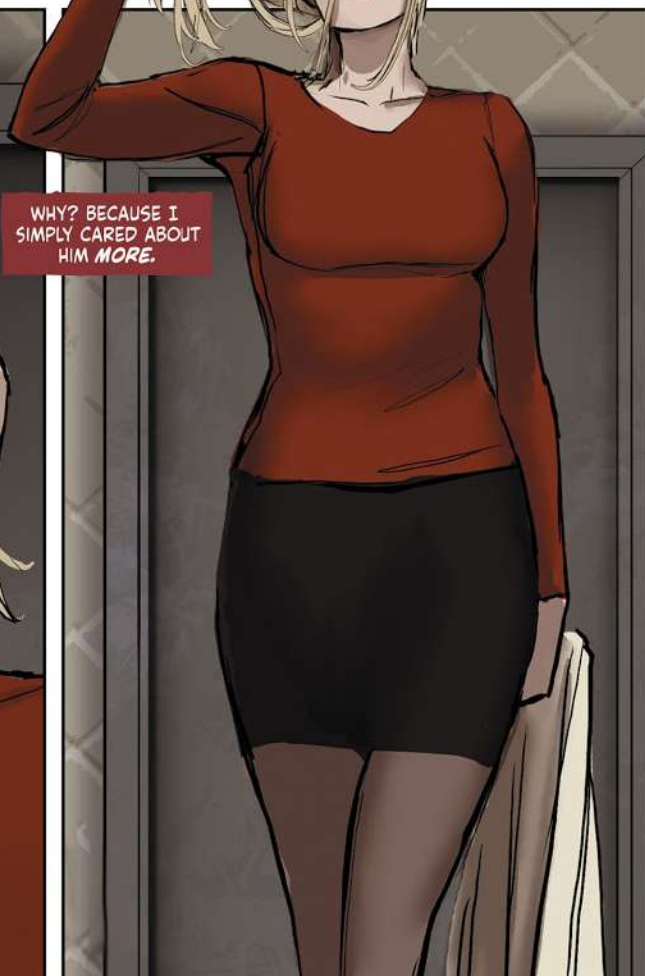
BECAUSE...IT MADE ME FEEL **GUILTY**. BECAUSE I'D FELT THE SAME ONCE...



BUT THAT DAY I SAW HIM SMILE AND THOUGHT OF BATMAN'S WORDS AGAIN.



MANY HAVE TRIED...ME? I'LL **SUCCEED**.



WHY? BECAUSE I SIMPLY CARED ABOUT HIM **MORE**.



I TRUSTED HIM **MORE**.



SO WHAT ABOUT THE WHOLE "YOU GET HANDSY AND I WANT TO GET SOME WORK DONE" THING?

I'M EXPANDING MY METHODOLOGY.

WELL, WHO AM I TO DEBATE YOUR SCIENTIFIC METHOD?

YOU ARE THE ONE WITH THE SMART GLASSES, AFTER ALL.

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! NOW TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES! DOCTOR'S ORDERS!







BEFORE I SANK INTO  
THE BLISS, I REMEMBER  
CHUCKLING SOFTLY.

HE WHISPERED,  
WHAT'S FUNNY?

I SAID, I WANTED TO  
HEAL YOUR SCARS,  
BUT HERE I AM ADDING  
SOME OF MY OWN.

I THINK HE SMILED.





I SMILED IN MY BED LATER THAT NIGHT...MY MIND SWIMMING IN THE AFTERMATH OF IT ALL, FULL OF IDEAS, FULL OF PLANS...



FULL OF HOPE. I COULD DO IT! I WOULD BE THE ONE WHO SAVED HIM. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD.



IT WAS AN EGOTISTICAL, SELFISH THOUGHT, BUT I WAS FINE WITH THAT. I MEAN, LET'S FACE IT, SLEEPING WITH MY PATIENT MADE ME RELINQUISH THE MORAL HIGH GROUND, SO THIS WAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST PEAK I COULD CLIMB.



HE WAS AN UNLOVED MAN. A DISCARDED MAN. IF HE FELT THAT SOMEONE CARED ABOUT HIM...



WELL, HE WOULD HAVE A **REASON** TO...WHAT WAS IT I SAID? CLIMB OUT OF THE ABYSS? YEAH...ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS REACH OUT AND GRAB MY HAND.



AND IN MY DREAMS, HE DID JUST THAT.







IT FELT RIGHT.  
ALMOST PROPHETIC.

DELUSIONAL THOUGH  
IT WAS IN THE END, I  
TRULY BELIEVED IT.

FIRST, I WOULD  
SAVE HIM...

THEN I WOULD SAVE  
THIS CITY OF MONSTERS.

WHAT A WONDERFUL  
DREAM IT WAS...





BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT DREAM WAS ABOUT TO END.



IT HAD BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE I FIRST MET HARVEY DENT...



...AND LIKE I SAID, FIVE MONTHS LATER WE'D BOTH BECOME *MURDERERS*.



WELL, I GUESS THIS IS IT.  
YOU KNOW, BACK IN MY EARLY CAMPAIGNING DAYS, I USED TO SAY, "JUSTICE IS BLINDFOLDED, WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND HER BACK, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE SHE CAN AT LEAST THROW A MEAN RIGHT HOOK."

IT WAS A JOKE. BUT THE TRUTH IS, IN ORDER FOR GOTHAM TO BECOME A CITY OF *LAW AND ORDER*, A RIGHT HOOK IS NOT ENOUGH. WE NEED TO PUT *THE SWORD* BACK IN JUSTICE'S HANDS.



AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, *THAT* IS OUR PURPOSE HERE TONIGHT.

WHAT WE DO HERE, WE DO FOR THE *FUTURE* OF GOTHAM.

WE WILL UNLEASH HORRORS UPON THE CITY AND THEY *WILL* SEE. THEY WILL *REALIZE* THAT THE *ONLY* WAY TO STOP THIS MADNESS IS TO DO WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE.

EXECUTIONERS! DO YOUR DUTY!

AND IF BLOOD *NEED* BE SPILLED...













NOW,  
EVERYBODY...



RISE  
AND SHINE...



GOTHAM  
IS YOURS *FOR THE  
TAKING!*



A *PAROLE?*  
ALREADY? MUST  
BE MY GOOD  
BEHAVIOR!

OH  
NO, JUST THE  
CONTRARY!

WHAT'S  
THAT SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?



WE WANT  
YOU TO DO WHAT YOU  
DO BEST: STEAL, BURN,  
MAIM, AND KILL. THAT PUTS  
A SMILE ON *YOUR* FACE,  
DOESN'T IT?

HEY, THAT  
MAKES ME SOUND LIKE  
SUCH A *ONE-NOTE*  
VILLAIN!



MAYBE, BUT NO  
ONE PLAYS THAT NOTE  
*BETTER.*

HOW KIND!  
BUT WHAT'S IN IT FOR  
*YOU?* I'VE READ THE PAPERS,  
AREN'T YOU PEOPLE ALL  
ABOUT *EXECUTING*  
CRIMINALS?

IT'S RIGHT  
THERE IN THE  
NAME...

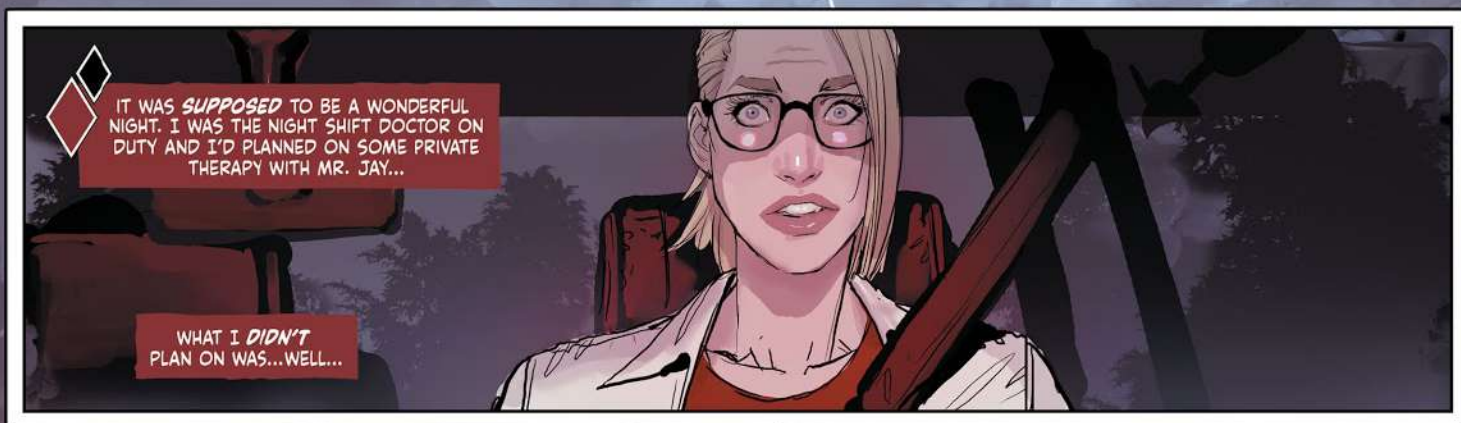


OUR  
PURPOSE IS NONE  
OF YOUR BUSINESS,  
CLOWN.  
NOW LEAVE!









IT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE A WONDERFUL NIGHT. I WAS THE NIGHT SHIFT DOCTOR ON DUTY AND I'D PLANNED ON SOME PRIVATE THERAPY WITH MR. JAY...

WHAT I *DIDN'T* PLAN ON WAS...WELL...



ARMAGEDDON.

ARE YOU *CRAZY?* GET THAT WATER CANNON OUT OF HERE! IF *MR. FREEZE* GETS TO IT WE'RE *FUCKED!*

COMMISSIONER! A CIVILIAN!

WHAT?!



DOCTOR, STAY DOWN!



COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED?



WHAT *DIDN'T* HAPPEN?! WE GOT A CALL FROM STRANGE, THE EXECUTIONERS BROKE IN--

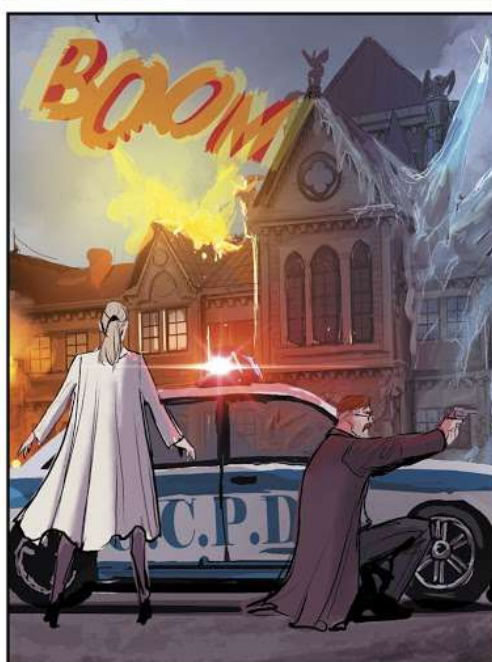


WAIT, THE EXECUTIONERS? DID THEY KILL ANY OF THE PATIENTS?



WHAT? NO! THEY SET THEM *FREE!* THE INMATES ARE TEAMING UP AND TAKING HOSTAGES! THEY'VE STOLEN THEIR WEAPONS BACK AND NOW ALL *HELL* HAS BROKEN LOOSE!









LOVE MAKES YOU  
DO CRAZY THINGS.

I WAS NEVER  
BRAVE. NEVER HAD  
A REASON TO BE...

THAT DAY, AS I RAN INTO  
THE HAUNTING DARKNESS OF  
AN ARKHAM CROWNED BY  
FIRE...I **FOUND** MY REASON.



THE POWER WAS  
OUT. IN A STRANGE  
WAY, MAYBE IT WAS  
FOR THE BEST.

GORDON SAID THE CAMERAS WERE  
OPERATIONAL, WHICH MEANT THE  
SECURITY STATION WAS STILL RUNNING  
ON ITS OWN EMERGENCY GENERATOR.  
I MADE MY WAY THERE, TRYING  
TO FIND JAY.



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE,  
BY THEN I KNEW MY  
WAY AROUND ARKHAM.



ON THE  
DARKER SIDE...



...OTHERS DID TOO.

OH GOD!







YOU!  
OH, I'VE  
BEEN LOOKING  
FOR YOU!  
**THE  
ANNOYING  
DOCTOR.**

WAYLON, STOP! YOUR...  
YOUR CONDITION **DOESN'T**  
HAVE TO **DEFINE**  
YOU!



I'M PAST  
FIGHTING THIS  
"CONDITION"  
DOCTOR.  
  
LIKE I  
TOLD YOU...WE LIVE  
IN A MAN-EAT-MAN WORLD.  
ME? I'M TOP OF THE  
FOOD CHAIN.  
BUT YOU?



**YOU'RE  
CHUM!**

**AAAAH!**



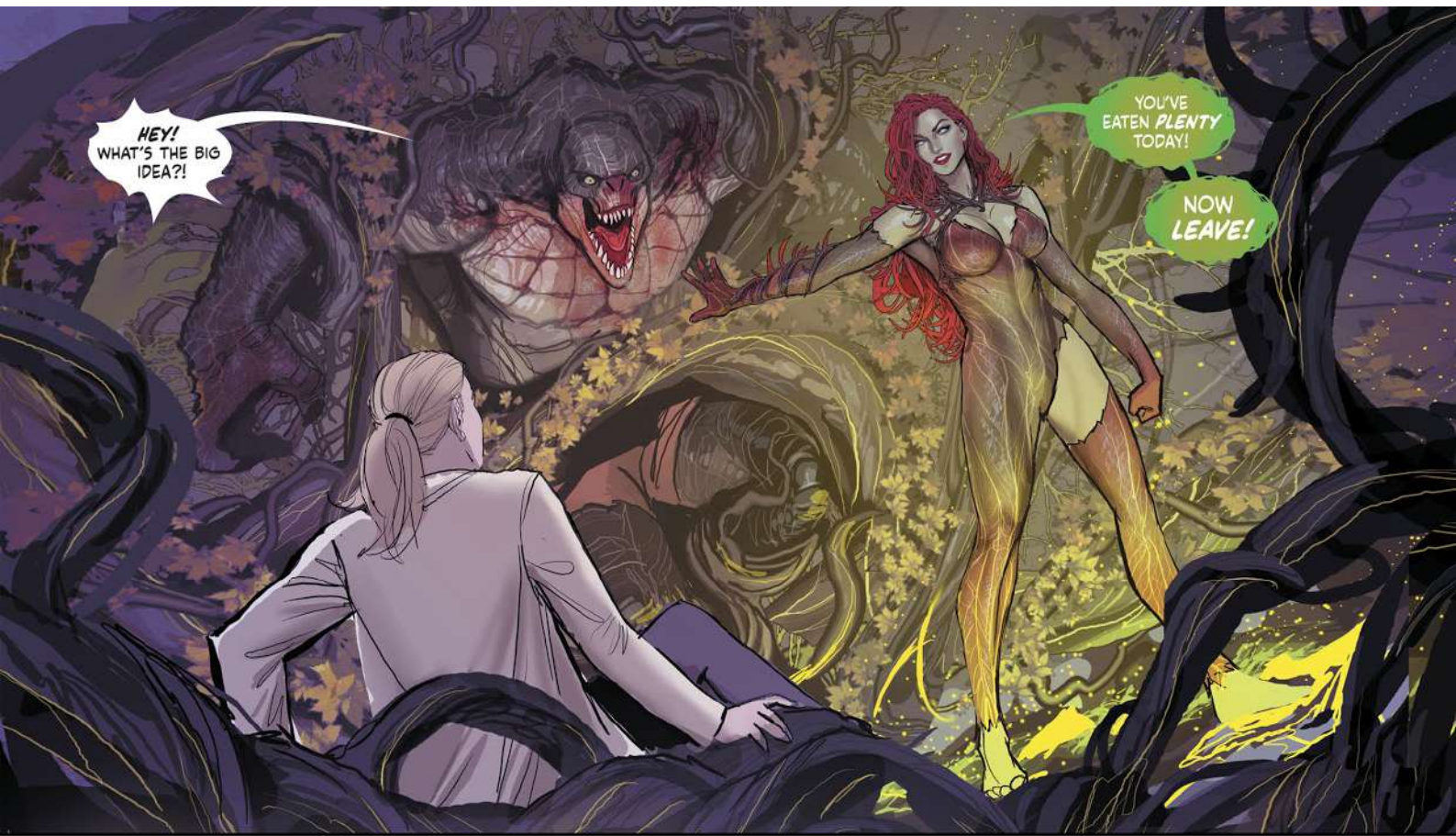
WAH!

NO!

THAT'S  
ENOUGH,  
WAYLON!







HEY!  
WHAT'S THE BIG  
IDEA?!

YOU'VE  
EATEN *PLENTY*  
TODAY!

NOW  
LEAVE!



WHAT THE  
HELL?

THAT'S...I  
THINK THAT'S KILLER  
CROC?



I...YOU...  
YOU *SAVED*  
ME?



MS.  
ISLEY, THANK  
YOU!

IT'S *IVY!*  
AND DON'T THANK  
ME YET.



AFTER  
ALL, YOU'RE ONLY  
*TRULY* SAVED IF YOU  
LEAVE THIS  
PLACE.

















NIGHT SHIFT?

I...UH,  
I'M GETTING  
MY FILES...  
MY...UM--

RESEARCH?

Y-YEAH.  
AND I...I SHOULD  
REALLY *HURRY*  
SO--



WHAT'S THE  
RUSH?



MR. DENT?  
WAIT...  
YOU'RE WITH...YOU'RE  
WITH *THEM*, AREN'T YOU?  
THE EXECUTIONERS?



TECHNICALLY  
THEY'RE WITH  
ME.



PLEASE,  
MR. DENT. YOU'RE  
A *GOOD MAN*.  
WHY--



WELL, ISN'T  
THAT THE BIG  
QUESTION?

WHY DO  
GOOD PEOPLE JUST  
*SNAP*? I BELIEVE YOU  
HAD A *THEORY* ON  
THAT?



WHAT WAS IT?  
PEOPLE IN PROLONGED  
STRESSFUL SITUATIONS  
MIGHT PERMANENTLY LOSE  
THE ABILITY TO FEEL  
EMPATHY?  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?









TO THE POINT, HUH?  
BUT IT DOESN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM.

O-O-KAY.

IT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO.



ONCE AGAIN, THE JOKER HAD ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM— ONLY TO KILL **TWELVE** PEOPLE IN A GAS ATTACK.



I FOUGHT WITH A JUDGE WHO KEPT SENDING JOKER BACK TO ARKHAM ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU, QUINZEL.

AND THE REAL KICKER IS, EVEN HE DIDN'T THINK THE JOKER BELONGED HERE.

THE JUDGE SENT HIM TO ARKHAM BECAUSE HE THOUGHT JOKER WOULD BE AN EVEN WORSE THREAT AT BLACKGATE!

THIS WAS THE **COWARDICE** OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM AT ITS FINEST AND WE DESPISED IT!

...WE?



ME...  
I WAS TIRED OF INNOCENT PEOPLE DYING BECAUSE THOSE OF US IN POWER LACKED THE COURAGE TO USE THE ONE THING THAT COULD PERMANENTLY PROTECT GOTHAM'S CITIZENS.

THE SWORD WE KEPT OUT OF THE HANDS OF JUSTICE.

**DEATH.**



THAT DAY I LOOKED AT ARKHAM IN THE DISTANCE AND THOUGHT, WHAT IF WE JUST RELEASED **ALL** OF THEM?

EVERY LAST BEAST CAGED WITHIN.

AND WHAT IF WE LET THEM RIP AND TEAR THROUGH THIS CURSED CITY UNTIL EVEN THE SOFTEST BLEEDING HEART WOULD FINALLY ADMIT THERE WAS NO **CURE** FOR EVIL.



WE DROPPED THAT IDEA. IT WAS WRONG. WE WERE EMBARRASSED OF THIS DARKNESS GROWING WITHIN US.

BUT NOW... WE SEE THINGS **CLEARLY.**













NOW *THAT'S* CHEATING!

JAY!  
RUN, HE'S GOT  
A GUN!



NOW NOW!  
DON'T THINK YOU'RE  
DISTRACTING ME THAT  
EASILY, DOC!

*YOU'RE*  
CHEATING AS  
WELL!  
I THOUGHT *I*  
WAS YOUR FAVORITE  
HOMICIDAL  
MANIAC!

AND HERE  
I FIND YOU HAVING  
A ONE-ON-ONE WITH  
ANOTHER FREAK!  
*FOR SHAME!*



BUT WAIT!



YOU  
LOOK HALF  
FAMILIAR!



NO WAY!  
HARVEY DENT,  
AS I LIVE AND  
BREATHE!



NOT FOR LONG.

MR. DENT!



PASS THE  
JUDGMENT,  
HARVEY!

PLEASE!  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO DO  
THIS!























I WANT TO SCARE HIM OFF. I'M AFRAID HE'LL EXECUTE JAY RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW.

MY HANDS ARE SHAKING. I'VE NEVER HELD A GUN BEFORE. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT GASTLY ABOUT TRIGGER DISCIPLINE.

I HOLD IT TOO TIGHTLY. TO STOP MYSELF SHAKING. AND THEN I FEEL IT KICK, AND IN THAT STERNITY OF A MOMENT I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE.

I THOUGHT OF MR. SEDGWICK'S GOOD ADVICE...

OH, YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SILENCE...

...THAT I IGNORED.

THE WRONG TURNS...

...I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN.

I THOUGHT OF THE BAD HABITS...

...THE WARNING SIGNS...

AND, MORE THAN ANYTHING, THAT LAST DAY I REFUSED TO WALK THROUGH.

AFTER ALL YOU'RE ONLY TRYING TO SAVE IF YOU LEAVE THE PLACE.





NONE OF THAT  
MATTERED ANYMORE.



NO...



NO!







IT WAS A MOMENT OF  
INESCAPABLE FINALITY.

I WAS A  
**MURDERER.**

I KILLED A MAN.  
A **GOOD** MAN.

ALL HE EVER WAS, ALL HE  
EVER WOULD BE, GONE.

AND THE SAME WAS TRUE  
FOR HARLEEN QUINZEL..



I REMEMBER TWO THINGS  
WITH ABSOLUTE CLARITY.

FIRST, I COULDN'T  
**BLINK.**



AND SECOND...  
I COULDN'T DROP  
THE GUN.



I COULDN'T DROP IT BECAUSE  
I WAS CONSIDERING PULLING THE  
TRIGGER ONE LAST TIME...



BUT IN A DESPERATE MOMENT OF  
SELF-PRESERVATION, MY MIND  
NOTICED SOMETHING...SOMETHING  
ABSURD. SOMETHING...**FUNNY.**





...WHAT'S FUNNY?

HA HA HA HA  
IT...  
ALL OF IT.  
IT'S ALL JUST...  
FUNNY!  
I MEAN,  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT!



I WANTED  
TO HELP...  
...BUT I'M JUST  
A MONSTER...  
...LIKE  
EVERYONE  
ELSE IN THIS  
CITY.



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER HOW GOOD  
YOUR *INTENTIONS*  
ARE.  
I MEAN...  
JUST ASK HARVEY  
HERE.



HE  
WANTS TO  
SAVE GOTHAM  
IN HIS OWN  
WAY.

HARVEY  
HARLEY



AND SO  
DID I...

HARVEY  
HARLEY



IN THE  
END...WELL, LOOK AT US.  
BOTH MURDERERS. AND THE  
FUNNY THING IS, I JUST  
NOTICED IT!

IT'S BEEN  
STARING US *IN THE*  
FACE!

HARVEY  
HARLEY









## THE BATCAVE.

Three weeks later.

HOW GOES THE ARKHAM INVESTIGATION, SIR?

I FOUND THIS FILE HIDDEN IN THE JOKER'S CELL. IT'S DR. QUINZEL'S RESEARCH.



SHE HAD SOME INITIAL INTEREST IN THE JOKER AS A CANDIDATE FOR TESTING HER THEORIES, BUT AFTER A CERTAIN POINT HE BECAME THE MAIN FOCUS OF HER STUDY.

LISTEN TO THIS...  
"IN A WAR ZONE, EMPATHY IS A **LIABILITY**. ACKNOWLEDGING THE HUMANITY OF YOUR ENEMY WILL CAUSE YOU TO HESITATE. IT IS A COURTESY YOUR OPPONENT MAY NOT GRANT YOU IN RETURN."

THAT'S QUITE CHILLING.

IT'S FROM AN INTERVIEW SHE CONDUCTED WITH A FORMER MILITARY OFFICER. A MURDERER.

NOW WATCH THIS, FROM ONE OF HER JOKER SESSIONS...

W-WHAT?

I MEAN, REGRET, GUILT... EMPATHY... THEY BRING ABOUT HESITATION.

AND ON THE STREETS, HESITATION WILL GET YOU CAUGHT...

...GET YOU **KILLED**. I ALWAYS PICTURED WE KILLED THAT PART OF OURSELVES FIRST.

HE CHANGED SOME PHRASING, BUT...

YES. IT'S TAKEN ALMOST WORD FOR WORD FROM HER OWN RESEARCH.





BUT WHY?



HE SAW HER AS HIS  
TICKET OUT OF  
ARKHAM.

ALL HE  
HAD TO DO WAS MAKE  
HIMSELF THE PERFECT PATIENT,  
THE PERFECT VALIDATION  
OF HER WORK.



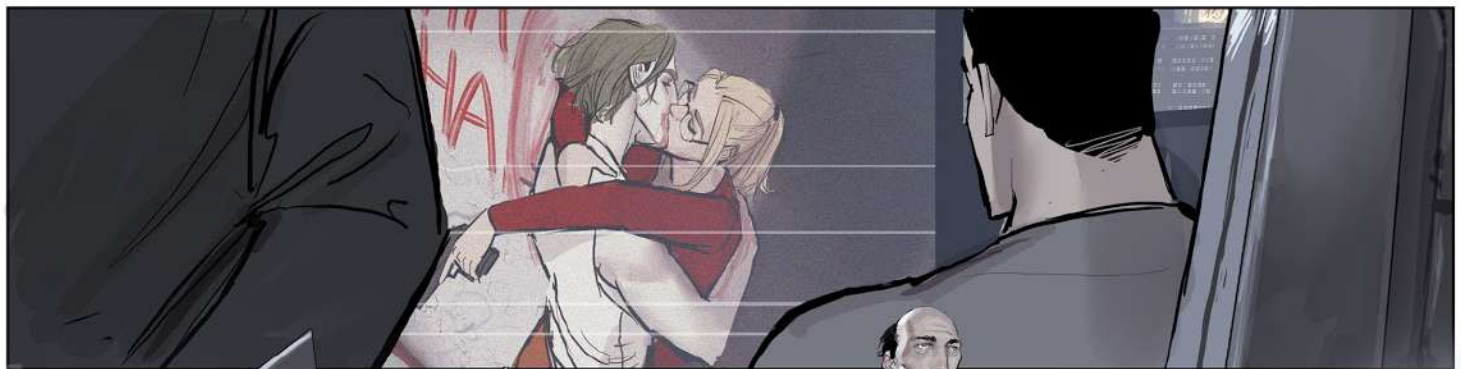
THE JOKER'S A MASTER  
MANIPULATOR.

WHEN THE  
EXECUTIONERS MADE  
THEIR MOVE ON ARKHAM,  
HE'D ALREADY PRIMED HER  
TO SACRIFICE HERSELF  
FOR HIM.

HARLEEN  
FELL FOR HIS  
LIES.



IF I MAY,  
MASTER BRUCE, THAT  
KISS SEEMED AWFULLY  
GENUINE...ON **BOTH**  
THEIR PARTS.



WHAT  
ARE YOU SAYING,  
ALFRED?  
THE  
JOKER IS IN  
LOVE?

WELL, LOVE  
IS A BIT TOO STRONG OF  
A WORD... BUT THEY DO  
SEEM **CRAZY** ABOUT  
ONE ANOTHER

THEN  
AGAIN, IN GOTHAM  
CITY, **CRAZY** CERTAINLY  
SEEMS TO BE  
CONTAGIOUS.







"...A LIGHT IN THE STORM TO  
SHOW HER THE WAY BACK."

## FOUR YEARS LATER.

THE MOON IS FULL AGAIN.

IT'S HOW I KNOW  
THIS IS ALL A DREAM.

THE MOON IS  
ALWAYS FULL.

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME  
THAT WAS A GOTHAM THING.

HARD TO REMEMBER  
WHO THAT WAS.

NOWADAYS A LOT OF  
THINGS ARE FUZZY. A FEW  
TUMBLES TOO MANY.

THE LAUGHING GAS  
PROBABLY DIDN'T HELP.

NO...NO. IT'S ALL FUZZY BECAUSE  
*DREAMS* ARE LIKE THAT...







IN THE DREAM  
I SMILE.

AFTER ALL, THIS IS  
WHERE I BELONG.

IN HIS WORLD.

WITH HIM...

BECAUSE I  
LOVE HIM.

BECAUSE I CAN  
STILL HELP HIM.

BECAUSE EVEN IN THE  
DREAM, I HOPE I CAN  
STILL SAVE HIM.

IT'S A GOOD DREAM.

IT'S JUST...THERE'S A SMALL, LUCID  
PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO WAKE UP.  
THE DREAM HAS LASTED QUITE A WHILE.  
A LONG TIME IN THE DARK.

I MEAN, EVEN THE DARKEST  
NIGHT MUST END...

...RIGHT?





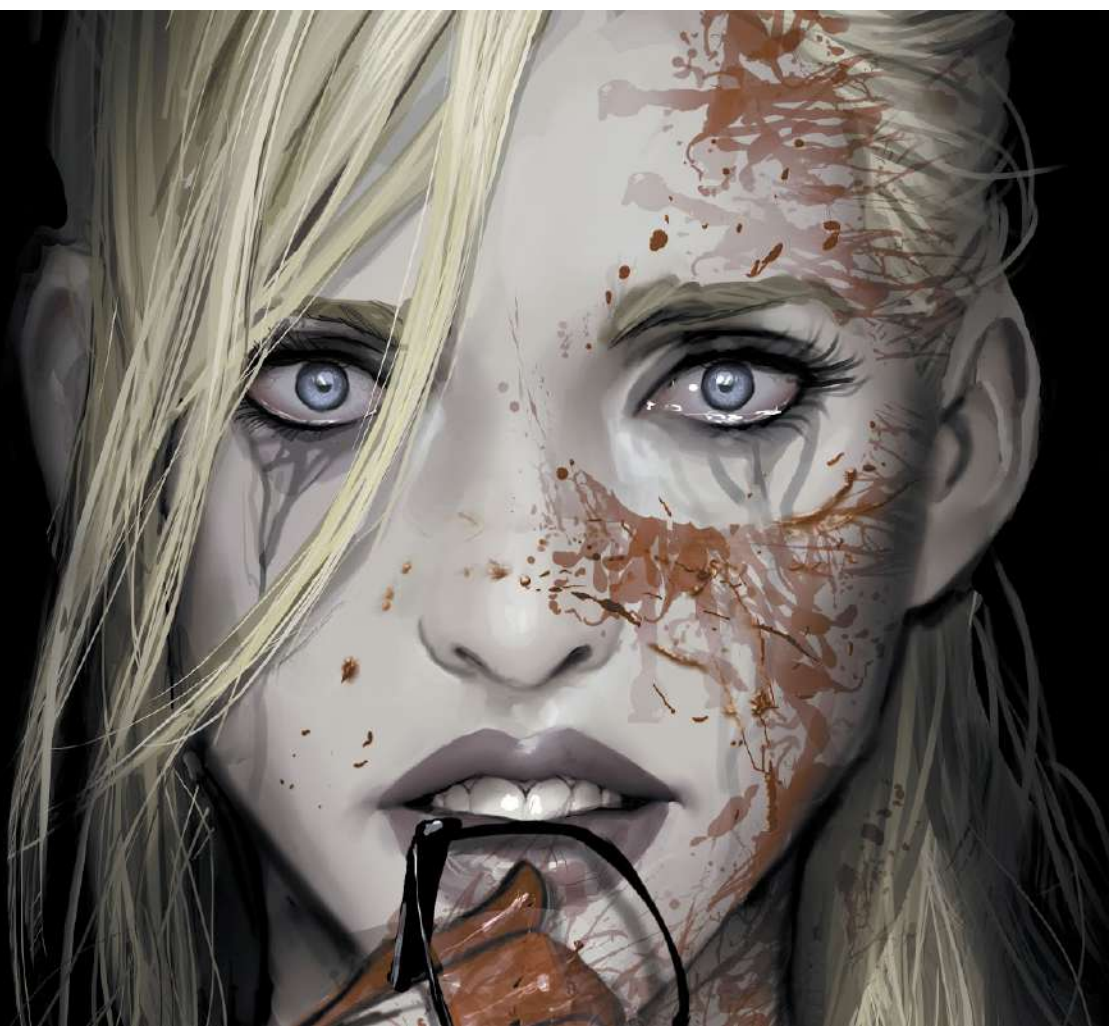




**"GOTHAM**  
IS THE CITY  
WHERE ALL THE ANGELS  
**FLY ON WINGS**  
OF ICARUS, DOCTOR.

**"UP, UP,  
UP THEY GO..."**

**"AND DOWN,  
DOWN,  
DOWN  
THEY FALL."**









# HARLEEN

**ANDY KHOURI**

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**“THERE WAS  
A BROKEN MAN  
IN THE ABYSS...**

**“...I REACHED DOWN  
TO HELP HIM...**

**“...I REALIZED  
TOO LATE,  
HE WASN'T SLIPPING...**

**“...HE WAS  
DRAGGING ME.”**

A BRILLIANT YOUNG PSYCHIATRIST WITH THE CURE FOR THE MADNESS OF GOTHAM, DR. HARLEEN QUINZEL, TAKES DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE THE CITY FROM ITSELF. WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE LEGENDARY SUPER-VILLAIN HARLEY QUINN IN THIS STUNNING REIMAGINING OF HARLEY AND THE JOKER'S TWISTED AND TRAGIC LOVE AFFAIR BY ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ (*AQUAMAN: UNDERWORLD, SUNSTONE*).

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